



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Ag Review November 2004

Volume 23, Number 11

November 24, 2004

A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, telephone, or personal interviews. This issue contains the results of monthly and quarterly surveys.

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POTATOES: 2004 potato production in **Maine** is estimated at 19.1 million cwt (hundredweight), 12 percent above 2003 production and the largest crop harvested in the state since 1997. Record high yields offset a 4,000 acre decline in harvested acreage. The November 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 61,500 acres; yields averaged 310 cwt per acre. Crop growth was excellent through mid-August with timely rains and sun promoting superior growth until heavy rains hit. This caused severe flooding in many fields in the St. John Valley when the river overflowed its banks and forced growers to abandon fields. An estimated 2,000 acres were left unharvested in 2004 in the state. Prolonged rains interrupted needed spray schedules, increased the incidence of disease, and resulted in numerous tuber quality problems. Extremely dry conditions followed during September, accelerating the pace of crop harvest. Growers had 75 percent of the crop dug by October 3, well ahead of the five-year average of 60 percent. The next Maine potato crop update will be published December 10, 2004 in the December **Crop Production** release, followed by the first report of stocks on hand in the December 15th **Potato Stocks** report.

Results from the 2004 Potato Objective Yield Survey placed Russet Burbank as the leading variety seeded in Maine, comprising 36.7 percent of the total acres planted. Frito-Lay varieties comprised 11.5 percent of the total acreage, followed by Shepody and Ontario. Fewer white varieties (long and round), and more reds and russets were planted in Maine in 2004 than a year earlier. Maine's Annual Grade and Size report will be available on January 12, 2005.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** also enjoyed excellent growing and harvesting conditions during the 2004 growing season. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,500 acres with yields surpassing all records, averaging 310 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 290 cwt per acre.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in Vermont totaled 211 million pounds for October 2004, down one percent from October 2003. There were an estimated 145,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during October 2004, unchanged from the previous month. This was a decrease of 2,000 cows from a year earlier. Milk production per cow during October 2004 averaged 1,455 pounds, an increase of five pounds from the previous year.

LABOR: There were 45,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast during the week of October 10-16, 2004, up 13 percent from a year earlier when there were 40,000 hired workers. Nationally, there were 851,000 workers hired by farm operators during the same time period, compared to 891,000 hired workers during 2003. In the Northeast, hired workers earned an average hourly wage of \$9.81 during the survey week, down 31 cents from October 2003. Across the United States hired workers were paid an average of \$9.30 per hour, compared to \$9.05 one year ago. Hired workers worked an average of 36.8 hours in the Northeast compared to 40.5 hours nationwide during the survey week. Quarterly farm labor statistics for the **Northeast region** consist of the six New England States and New York.

Although only quarterly statistics were available for the Northeast region, annual averages for wage rates were available for the six New England States. In 2004, the **New England** agricultural wage rates increased from \$10.40 in 2003 to \$10.64 in 2004 for all hired workers.

This is a monthly summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from nationwide reports issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

All national reports and state newsletters are available on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

National reports can be ordered by calling 1-800-999-6779.

How can you get these reports electronically?

* For free national e-mail reports, send a message to: usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu and in the body, type: lists

* For free state newsletters, such as this, send a message to: listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type: subscribe new-eng-all-reports

OR lists for other states.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2003 - 2004

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	66.0	63.5	65.5	61.5	260	310	17,030	19,065
Massachusetts	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.5	265	310	716	775
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	285	290	171	145
United States Fall Crop	1,106.0	1,043.7	1,090.9	1,024.5	376	398	410,588	407,786
United States All Seasons	1,272.6	1,194.7	1,248.6	1,169.8	367	385	457,814	450,168

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 12, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1999 - 2004 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average											
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt											
1999	5.80	5.30	5.45	6.35	6.45	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.80	6.60	6.75	6.35
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	7.00	6.15
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.80	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.40	7.05
2003	6.15	5.25	5.45	5.90	5.75	5.85	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.70	6.90	6.05
2004 ^{2/}	5.95	5.15	5.35									

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., September 29, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2000 - 2004

Variety and Type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
By Variety:	Percent				
Russet Burbank	33.7	29.1	36.4	33.2	36.7
Frito-Lay, All	11.1	12.6	10.9	11.9	11.5
Shepody	11.1	11.4	9.2	9.7	9.3
Ontario	9.2	7.3	9.7	8.3	5.5
Yukon Gold	2.2	2.2	1.4	2.0	3.3
Superior	5.7	8.9	7.2	6.1	3.0
Russet Norkotah	4.0	3.5	4.7	4.4	3.0
Atlantic	2.8	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.0
Katahdin	1.7	3.9	1.6	2.5	2.5
Norland	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.5
Snowden	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.3
Norwis	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2
Goldrush	1/	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.9
Reba (NY 87) 13	1/	1/	1/	1.7	1.7
Monona	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.7
Chieftain	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3
Centennial	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.2
Russet Mainstay	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.0
Kennebec	2.3	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other Varieties	7.9	8.1	7.4	7.2	6.4
TOTAL VARIETIES	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:					
Reds	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.5
Whites (Long and Round)	57.0	60.0	53.0	56.0	51.0
Russets	39.0	35.0	43.0	40.0	43.5
TOTAL TYPES	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Included with other varieties.Source: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 12, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October 2003 - 2004

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ^{1/}		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ^{1/}		Egg Production from All Layers ^{1/}	
	October 2003	October 2004	October 2003	October 2004	October 2003	October 2004	October 2003	October 2004
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,805	2,794	2,869	2,844	2,266	2,426	65	69
Maine	4,139	2,729	4,184	2,781	2,414	2,229	101	62
United States	272,027	279,873	335,333	344,194	2,218	2,221	7,439	7,643

^{1/} Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.SOURCE: *Chickens and Eggs*, 3:00 p.m., November 22, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, October 2004 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	Oct 2003	Sep 2004	Oct 2004	Oct 2003	Sep 2004	Oct 2004	Oct 2003	Sep 2004	Oct 2004
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	147	145	145	1,450	1,430	1,455	213	207	211
New York	665	654	650	1,455	1,420	1,460	968	929	949
Pennsylvania	562	562	563	1,455	1,415	1,465	818	795	825
United States ^{2/}	7,743	7,769	7,769	1,561	1,529	1,576	12,083	11,878	12,245

^{1/} Average number for the month, including dry cows.^{2/} United States includes only 20 major states: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.SOURCE: *Milk Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 16, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 1999 - 2004

Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Dollars per Cwt												
1999	18.20	16.60	16.50	13.90	13.90	14.10	14.50	14.90	16.20	16.30	16.30	13.90	15.40
2000	13.40	13.40	13.50	13.40	13.50	13.80	13.50	13.80	14.00	14.00	14.30	14.60	13.80
2001	13.70	14.30	15.00	15.40	16.20	16.80	17.00	17.30	17.90	16.40	15.80	14.10	15.80
2002	14.20	13.80	13.30	13.10	12.70	12.10	11.60	11.70	12.00	12.50	12.50	12.40	12.70
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
2004 ^{2/}	13.90	14.20	15.60	17.50	19.70	19.50	17.40	15.40	16.00	16.10			3/

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.^{3/} 2004 annual average price will be available in May 2005.SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., October 29, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.QUARTERLY FARM LABOR: Hired Workers on Farms and Hours Worked per Week
Northeast and United States, October 2004 with Comparisons ^{1/}

Region	Hired Workers on Farms ^{2/}			Hours Worked During the Week		
	October 12-18 2003	July 11-17 2004	October 10-16 2004	October 12-18 2003	July 11-17 2004	October 10-16 2004
	1,000 Workers			Hours per Week		
Northeast ^{3/}	40	43	45	39.7	39.9	36.8
United States ^{4/}	891	961	851	40.2	39.2	40.5

^{1/} Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.^{2/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.^{3/} Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.^{4/} United States excludes Alaska.SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 19, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.QUARTERLY FARM LABOR: Wage Rates for Hired Workers, Northeast and United States
October 2004 with Comparisons ^{1/}

Northeast ^{2/}	October 12-18 2003	July 11-17 2004	October 10-16 2004	United States ^{3/}	October 12-18 2003	July 11-17 2004	October 10-16 2004
	Dollars per Hour				Dollars per Hour		
All Hired Workers ^{4/}	10.12	9.72	9.81	All Hired Workers ^{4/}	9.05	9.04	9.30
Field	9.62	9.31	9.37	Field	8.42	8.34	8.60
Livestock	8.64	8.14	8.64	Livestock	8.64	8.74	8.91
Field and Livestock	9.33	8.89	9.10	Field and Livestock	8.47	8.43	8.67

^{1/} Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.^{2/} Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.^{3/} United States excludes Alaska.^{4/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 19, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.ANNUAL FARM LABOR: Workers on Farms, Hours Worked per Week for Hired Workers and Wage Rates
by Type of Worker, Annual Average, New England and Northeast, 2003 - 2004 ^{1/}

Region	Number of Workers on Farms, Annual Average ^{2/}		Hours Worked During the Week, Annual Average ^{2/}		Wage Rates by Type of Hired Worker, Annual Average ^{3/}					
	Hired Workers ^{3/}		Hired Workers ^{3/}		All Hired		Field		Field and Livestock	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Workers		Hours per Week		Dollars per Hour ^{4/}					
New England ^{5/}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.40	10.64	9.52	9.56	9.31	9.37
New York	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.55	9.37	9.25	9.25	8.78	8.79
Northeast ^{6/}	41.0	36.2	39.0	38.5	9.93	9.96	9.40	9.41	9.01	9.05
United States ^{7/}	836.0	825.2	39.5	39.6	9.08	9.22	8.31	8.45	8.42	8.55

^{1/} Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.^{2/} Data not available for New England and New York.^{3/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.^{4/} Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all states, regions, and the United States is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.^{5/} New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.^{6/} Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.^{7/} United States excludes Alaska.SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 19, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, September 2004 with Comparisons

Product	September 2003	August 2004	September 2004	September 2004 as Percent of:	
				September 2003	August 2004
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	2,466	2,396	2,633	107	110
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	4,885	5,849	4,986	102	85
Mozzarella Cheese	5,663	6,062	5,218	92	86
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	1,263	937	1,680	133	179
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	680	616	695	102	113
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,253	6,140	6,528	90	106
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	469	778	628	134	81
Milk Sherbet, Hard	261	274	290	111	106

^{1/} American type cheese includes cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.
^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.
^{3/} Creamed and low fat.
SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., November 4, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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